

Nearly 40 percent of teens that abused prescription medication obtained the drugs from their parent's medicine cabinet.

Approximately 21 percent of high school seniors have reported using marijuana in the past month.

In 2014, there were 47,055 drug overdoses and made it the leading cause of accidental death in the United States.

More than 23 million people over the age of 12 are addicted to alcohol and other drugs.

Recovery is a long process and frequently requires multiple treatment attempts before complete and consistent sobriety can be achieved.



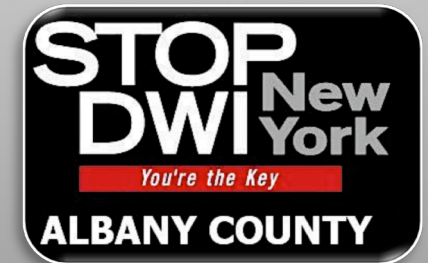
In 2013, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 10,076 deaths (30.8 percent of overall driving fatalities).

Nearly 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making it the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States.

In 2013, approximately 1.4 million people ages 12–20 were heavy drinkers and 5.4 million engaged in binge drinking.

Albany County Sheriff's Office

16 Eagle Street
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 720-8100
www.albanycountysheriff.com



"CHOICES"

**YOUR DESTINY IS YOUR
CHOICE**

"Choices"

The Albany County Sheriff's Office offers a high impact program to increase the awareness of alcohol and drug use, addiction, and the consequences of risky behaviors. "Choices" combines education, visuals, and personal experiences for an empowering message. This innovative program is offered as a field trip for students starting in the 8th grade. Separate sessions for parents are also available.



Social Pressures and Communication

Part of growing up and being human is the desire for social acceptance. Teenagers thrive on wanting to be popular. Their brains are not fully developed in reasoning to think ahead about "what ifs". Parents struggle to protect their children from the unknown, not realizing the increasing number of drugs that plague our communities. As each generation progresses, the same social issues have added dangers. Peer pressures, bullying, and natural curiosity can lead teens to experimenting and partaking in risky behaviors. Each choice made has a consequence,

some life altering, some fatal. "Choices" is a way of bringing the hard topics of drugs and alcohol to the forefront of discussion. The best line of defense for our communities is education, awareness, and communication. The program combines knowledge, visuals, and speakers with life stories. The presentation provides the audience with a larger scope of the overall dangers of destructive decisions. Everyone needs to take personal responsibility of their actions that can affect them and others around them.